

The Quota Programme

The Norwegian Quota Programme is a funding scheme offered by the Norwegian Government to students from developing countries, Central and Eastern Europe, and former Soviet states for studies at institutions of higher education in Norway. The objective of the Quota Programme is to promote the internationalization of higher education. Today the programme sponsors a total of 1100 students, 800 of them from the developing countries and the remainder from Central and Eastern Europe. Each year universities and university colleges in Norway are allocated a certain number of quota students. Most of the universities and university colleges offer courses and educational programmes in English. The programme normally includes courses at Master and PhD level, in addition to certain professional degrees and one-year programmes.

At Hedmark University College (HUC) admittance to apply for the Quota Programme is only given to **applicants who come from partner institutions with which HUC has a formal cooperation agreement**. Please check with your home institution or department if they have an agreement with HUC. It is possible to apply to attend Norwegian taught programmes at HUC, provided that students follow a one year Norwegian Language and Culture programme prior to taking up studying the initial degree programme.

Who can apply?

Applicants for admission under the Quota Programme must fulfil certain criteria in order to be considered for admission. Admission is limited and therefore very competitive. Applications for the Quota Programme should be recommended by the legal authorities at their home institution.

It is a condition that the applicant applies for admission to the Quota Programme from his or her home country, and can substantiate that he or she has been **in the home country for at least one year prior to admission into the programme**. Quota Programme students are expected to return home on completion of their studies in Norway.

Criteria for application

Required Educational Background

The Quota Programme is aimed at postgraduate students.

Applicants must fulfil the **basic entrance requirements for matriculation at a Norwegian institution of higher education**, see www.nokut.no/sw14437.asp. In addition to the basic entrance requirements, applicants for the Quota Programme must provide documentary evidence of the following:

- For Master's Degree programmes, the minimum requirement is three (3) years of study at university level, i.e. minimum Bachelor's Degree level (or equivalent).
- For Bachelor degrees, professional degrees or one-year programmes the minimum requirement is one (1) year study at university level.

Grade requirement

These programmes are very competitive, and only applicants with excellent grades will be considered. For Quota Programme 2009 HUC will give priority to students applying for Master Degree programmes.

English language requirements:

All non-native English speakers must **provide official documentation of English language proficiency** at the level of Norwegian upper secondary school/high school. English must have been the primary foreign language in at least seven years in primary, secondary and upper secondary school, alternatively an A-level exam in English.

Applicants who do not fill these requirements, or are not sure that they do, must take one of the following tests:

- TOEFL with a score of 500 (written) 170 (computer based) 60 (internet based)
- IELTS with a score of 5.0

No exceptions are made to this requirement. Scores lower than 500/170/60 (TOEFL) or 5.0 (IELTS) will not be accepted.

Funding

The Quota Programme is a scholarship programme, but the funding is given as part loan, part grant. Students receive money from the State Educational Loan Fund twice a year, and the amount paid is approximately NOK 80.000 a year, or approximately 11.000 US dollars. The scholarship is meant to cover all expenses throughout the academic year. The Quota Programme scholarship also includes a partial allowance for travel to Norway at the beginning of the study period and home again on completion. If the student's programme is of more than one year's duration, a partial allowance is also granted for one trip home for the summer holidays. The allowance is fixed and based on student airfare rates.

On completion of the programme, and when the students have provided documentary evidence of their return to their home country, the outstanding loan can be converted to a scholarship. As long as the students fulfill this requirement, they will not have to repay the loan or pay any interest on it.

How to apply?

If a student fulfils all **the criteria above**, he or she may contact legal authorities at their home educational institution for a recommendation. When we receive this institutional recommendation at HUC, we will expect a Quota Programme application from the student recommended. The applicant will need to fill in the Quota Programme application form available at <http://english.hihm.no> Remember to prepare all documentation including a recommendation letter from a professor.

Translation:

Translation of all documentation into English or Norwegian must be enclosed. Documents must be translated into English or Norwegian by an authorized translator. You may ask the issuing institution to give you a transcript/certificate in English. A certified copy of the original document in the original language must accompany the certified copy of translation.

Address the application to:
Hedmark University College
International Office,
Lærerskolealleen 1
N-2418 Elverum, Norway

Closing date for applications

The official application deadline for the Quota Programme is normally December 1st the year prior to study start. **For the Quota Programme applications 2009 application closing date is set to January 15th 2009.** Applications must be received at the HUC International Office by this date. Late applications will not be considered. HUC is not responsible for applications arriving late due to slow postal services or other circumstances beyond our control. Be sure to send the application well before the closing date for applications. Applicants can expect to receive a reply in April.

Travelling to Norway and procedures on arrival

The letter of acceptance is sent to the student from HUC by April/May. Students who are enrolled should contact the Norwegian Embassy **as soon as possible** to apply for a student resident permit. Students should arrive in Norway before the educational programme starts and are expected to attend the first week's orientation sessions. Note: The academic year at HUC begins in the middle of August.

After the arrival, all students will be allocated a "social security number" (personal identity number) for residence over 6 months. HUC has a "Buddy system" for international students to help them get off to a good start at the university college.

For further information, please contact international@hihm.no

To learn more about Norwegian history, society and culture, please see:
www.study-norway.net
www.norway.no